

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WELLIN 00672 222227Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 /083 W

-----222233 003871 /67

R 220414Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2758

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 0672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, EI, NZ

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND TO TAKE NORTHERN IRELAND REFUGEES

1. AFTER WEEKLY CABINET MEETING FEBRUARY 21, PRIME MINISTER MULDOON ANNOUNCED THAT NEW ZEALAND WOULD GRANT REFUGE TO LIMITED NUMBER OF NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTHS WHO WERE FORMER MEMBERS OF CATHOLIC OR PROTESTANT MILITANT GROUPS. MULDOON DESCRIBED THESE YOUNG PEOPLE AS HAVING BEEN ASSOCIATED EARLIER WITH ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE VIOLENT GROUPS, AND WHO NOW WANT TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM THEIR FORMER MILITANT ACTIVITIES, BUT WHO FEAR PHYSICAL RETALIATION FROM FORMER ASSOCIATES IF THEY TRY TO BREAK AWAY. THE PRIME MINISTER DEPICTED NEW ZEALAND'S MOVE IN HUMANITARIAN TERMS FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN THIS COUNTRY ATTRACTED BY NORTHERN IRELAND VISITOR MISS MIRAI CORRIGAN AND HER "PEACE MOVEMENT". MULDOON DISMISSED SUGGESTIONS THAT AN IRISH MAFIA SITUATION MIGHT BE IMPORTED INTO NEW ZEALAND WITH THE IRISH YOUTHS. HE HAS NOT GIVEN ANY INDICATION OF HOW MANY REFUGEES WILL BE INVOLVED, WHEN THEY WILL ARRIVE, OR WHO WILL

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PAY THEIR FARES.

2. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER MULDOON, WHO LOOKS UPON HIMSELF AS AN IRISHMAN, SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN THIS DECISION MORE OR LESS ON HIS OWN. THE PRIME MINISTER'S IRISH ANCESTRY MAY HAVE PLAYED A PART IN HIS DECISION. ANOTHER INFLUENCE ON HIM IS THE BEAUTIFUL AND

ARTICULATE MISS CORRIGAN WHO HAS SUCCEEDED IN APPEALING
TO IDEALISTIC SIDE OF THE NEW ZEALAND PUBLIC. THAT IS
NOT TO SAY THAT VERY MANY IRISH YOUTHS CAN EXPECT TO
COME HERE. IMMIGRATION POLICIES ARE RESTRICTIVE AND
THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF NEW ZEALANDERS WANT TO
RESTRICT ENTRY INTO THIS COUNTRY WHETHER FROM IRELAND
OR ELSEWHERE. END COMMENT.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770219/aaaaarhc.tel
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Review Date: 21-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW ZEALAND TO TAKE NORTHERN IRELAND REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, EI, NZ, (MULDOON, ROBERT D)
To: STATE
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